

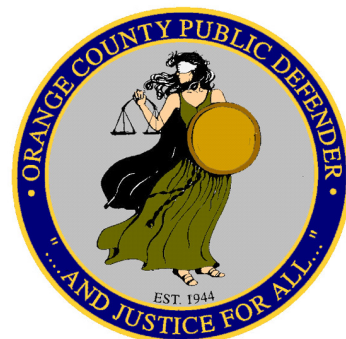
The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance



County of Orange Offices of the Public Defender

Business Plan Fiscal Year 2006-2007

*PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY
COST-EFFECTIVE LEGAL SERVICES
TO THE INDIGENT OF ORANGE COUNTY*



March 2006

OFFICES OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

2006-2007 BUSINESS PLAN

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I. Executive Summary

Vision:

The vision of the Offices of the Public Defender is to seek and preserve freedom for all by vigorously safeguarding Constitutional rights. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Offices of the Public Defender is to provide high quality legal representation to clients in a cost-effective manner.

Values:

Ensure high quality legal representation to clients by demanding excellence and demonstrating compassion, loyalty, commitment, integrity, and professionalism.

Provide a work environment that is supportive, fosters individual and professional growth, promotes excellence and accountability, values diversity and innovation, reflects fairness and ethical decision making, and creates an atmosphere of trust, respect, and teamwork.

Summary:

Fiscal year 2006-2007 presents a variety of opportunities and challenges for the department. Preparing a business plan is a continuing challenge because the department faces serious budget constraints and operates in a justice system that regularly experiences restructuring and reform. Nevertheless, the Offices of the Public Defender are prepared to adjust to the dynamics that lie ahead.

The department provides high quality legal representation in a cost-effective manner to approximately 77,500 clients annually. A staff of almost 400 dedicated, highly qualified, hard working employees who believe in this ideal strive to achieve the highest level of protection for these clients and to provide high quality legal representation. This is the mission of the Offices of the Public Defender, delivered in an ethical and responsible manner.

The Business Plan explains the nature of the work done in the department, identifies those in the community served by this agency, and explains the roles of the three separate units, the Public Defender's Office, the Alternate Defender's Office, and the Associate Defender's Office. It focuses on the core goal and on strategies developed to achieve the departmental mission. The Business Plan also addresses issues, challenges, and trends the department faces such as limited funding, changes in drug courts and the Proposition 36 program, domestic violence courts, homeless court, the new DUI court, new legislation, and the developing community court.

The Goal for the Offices of the Public Defender for fiscal year 2006-07:

The goal of the Offices of the Public Defender is to protect the constitutional rights, privileges and freedoms of individuals by providing the highest quality legal advocacy for all clients in the courts of Orange County in a cost-effective manner.

This goal will be achieved through the efforts of the staff in each of the primary units of the Offices of the Public Defender. These efforts focus on a variety of activities:

Representing indigent clients in felony and misdemeanor cases in the criminal courts. This representation is provided by each of the three independent units of the Offices of the Public Defender.

Advocating and protecting the rights of individuals by ensuring that they are treated fairly and equitably in the Mental Health Courts of Orange County.

Providing high quality representation for clients in each of the Collaborative Courts of Orange County.

Advocating the parental rights of clients by providing high quality legal representation in dependency cases.

II. Mission and Goal

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Offices of the Public Defender is to provide high quality legal representation to clients in a cost-effective manner.

If a person accused of a crime is financially unable to hire a lawyer, the law requires the appointment of counsel for that person. In addition to defendants in criminal cases, counsel is appointed to represent minors in Juvenile Court cases, parents in dependency cases, and a variety of persons in mental health cases. The right to counsel in criminal cases arises under the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and similar provisions of the California Constitution. California statutes require the appointment of the Public Defender to represent indigent persons who are entitled to representation. The Code requires appointment of the Public Defender unless the Public Defender indicates unavailability. If the Public Defender indicates unavailability the court must appoint other counsel at county expense.

The principal role of the Offices of the Public Defender is the protection of constitutional rights and liberties, consistent with the mission of the Offices of the Public Defender. In advancing the cause of these clients, the dedicated lawyers and support staff are on the front lines protecting the precious rights and privileges of all Orange County residents. Effective law enforcement also includes exonerating those who are not guilty, and respecting and enforcing the constitutional rights of the populace – those who stand accused in court and those who do not.

Overview:

Almost all cases come to the Public Defender through court-appointment to represent clients whom the court determines are financially unable to employ counsel. In some locations the court refers defendants who are not in custody to private lawyers who may take the case for a reduced fee, and only appoints the Public Defender if the defendant is unable to secure the services of a private lawyer. Lawyers in the Offices of the Public Defender represent persons who are accused of criminal conduct, persons whose mental health has become an issue for the courts, or persons whose parental rights are at issue.

The Offices of the Public Defender consist of three independent units. The Main Office handles most of the indigent cases arising in the various court locations throughout the county. The Alternate Defender unit handles clients in criminal cases whom the main unit cannot represent due to conflicts of interest (such as multiple defendants charged in the same case). The Associate Defender unit handles a small number of homicide cases that the main unit cannot handle due to a conflict of interest. The separate units save the county more than \$7 million annually by not having the conflict cases handled by more expensive court-appointed private counsel.

The major categories of cases which account for nearly all clients are criminal cases, juvenile delinquency cases, child dependency cases, and mental health cases. Clients come from all over the county and are represented by staff attorneys in the North Justice Center, West Justice Center, Central Justice Center, Newport Beach facility and Laguna Niguel facility of the Harbor Justice Center, and the Lamoreaux Justice Center.

Specialized programs have been established to deal with the root causes of crime, and these programs reduce recidivism. These programs, which tend to consume more attorney time per case, include several drug courts, the Proposition 36 felony court, the domestic violence courts, the Outreach Court serving the many homeless people in the community in its operations at various shelters in Santa Ana, and the recently created DUI Court currently operating in the Orange County Harbor Justice Center. The Public Defender is participating in the development of a new court program aimed at expanding assistance to people suffering from mental illness. The initial planning contemplates a court caseload of 100 cases, limited to those charged with nonviolent crimes, including felonies. This will create additional staffing demands on the department. Changes in the law over the past several years have added a new class of cases (Sexually Violent Predator litigation), new crimes (such as gang-related crimes), increased punishment for crimes already on the books (three-strikes law), and otherwise enhanced sentences clients face. These and other developments increase the need for experienced lawyers and additional training.

Proposition 69, enacted in 2004, requires certain arrestees to provide DNA samples to law enforcement. The implementation of Proposition 69 will further increase the number of "cold cases" filed. These cases often arise 5 to 30 years after the incident (typically homicide cases). These cases challenge staff resources and typically involve significant investigative efforts to track down evidence and locate witnesses from long ago. Staff is called upon to investigate and research legal issues that arise because of the passage of time. This usually requires reconstructing the circumstances of the offense itself, researching the reasons for the delay, and analyzing the impact of the delay.

The Public Defender must remain responsive to changes in the law, developments occurring in the Justice System, and budget concerns, while continuing to focus on the needs of individual clients. It is a dynamic situation often outside the immediate control of the department, but one that the department is constantly assessing and addressing.

The increased number of specialty courts along with the increased number of complex felony cases has caused the department to periodically reallocate resources primarily by shifting staff assignments. A new lease for an expanded Central Justice Center branch office was signed by the Board of Supervisors on November 1, 2005. The additional space will eliminate the serious overcrowding at this location. Construction of the new space is expected to be completed by March of 2006 when the 7-year lease will actually commence. A build-out of designated expansion space at Lamoreaux Justice Center is still contemplated but a target date remains uncertain. The department also continues to collaborate with staff from the County Executive Office and other appropriate entities on the plans for the transfer of court facilities from county control to state control (SB1732), the new South Court design, and the consideration of future renovation and use of Building 16 in the Civic Center Plaza.

Budget Impact:

The Public Defender is funded primarily from the County General Fund. The department also receives revenue from the state for certain mandated services, from grants, and from the collection of fees for Public Defender services as authorized by state statutes. Approximately 93% of the department budget is expended for employee salaries and benefits.

The state continues to experience budget shortfalls and cutbacks, some of which reduced or eliminated funds to counties and cities. The state has deferred reimbursement of state mandate activities prior to 2004-05 and initiated a repayment schedule due to begin in fiscal year 2006-07. The state did make payment this year for the mandated functions for FY 2004-05 based upon the FY 2004-05 estimated expenses for mandates. The Public Defender works diligently to stay within County budget targets. Because the services of the Public Defender are mandated it is essential to continue to provide appropriate funding for these services. The creation of new court programs and expansion of existing programs, as well as continuing increases in the number of complex felony cases has challenged the department in ensuring adequate staffing and providing work space in all locations.

Partnerships:

The department has a program called the Circle of Communication in which managers meet regularly as a group and they meet regularly with their staff to address and resolve issues through these partnerships, with the primary focus on exploring new and innovative ways of doing business and improving efficiency and quality of service.

The Labor-Management Committee process (LMC) is an integral part of the partnership concept and compliments other initiatives aimed at improving departmental performance and work conditions. Beginning in 2002 and continuing to the present the LMC solicited suggestions from all staff on how to address departmental and county-wide cost savings concerns. The LMC continues to work with management to implement new ideas. In 2005-06 the LMC worked hard to develop a department Health and Wellness Program while continuing to address employee suggestions and issues of concern. Additional LMC members have been added to assure representation by all general employee groups.

The Offices of the Public Defender work collaboratively with a variety of agencies within and outside county government. The Drug Courts, DUI Court, and the Proposition 36 Court involve cooperation and coordination between the Courts, District Attorney, Public Defender, County Counsel, Probation Department, Health Care Agency, Sheriff, other law enforcement agencies and others. Oversight committees work to facilitate the effectiveness of the Drug Courts, DUI Court, and the handling of Proposition 36 cases. Other specialty courts such as the Domestic Violence Courts and Homeless Court require collaboration with the Judges, Public Defender, District Attorney, and Probation Department, among others.

The department actively participated in the Steering Committee organized to develop spending priorities and strategies for Proposition 63 funds to improve services for the mentally ill. Similarly, the Public Defender's office participates in various interdisciplinary organizations including the Family Violence Commission, the Orange County Mental Health Coalition and the Juvenile Justice Commission, which are dedicated to improving services to the public and enhancing public safety.

The Public Defender continues to work closely with the County Executive Office in the areas of Human Resources and Employee Relations, Budget and Financial Resources, and Information Technology. The department remains an active participant on the Integrated Law and Justice Committee made up of various county and city agencies in an effort to reduce duplicative use of data entry resources.

Department lawyers participate in various law-related organizations in the community. These include the California State Bar Association, the Coalition of the Bench and Bar of the State of California, the Orange County Bar Association, the California Public Defender's Association, the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, the Orange County Mental Health Coalition, and the Constitutional Rights Foundation, where staff attorneys serve as coaches and judges in the Mock Trial program for high school students. In 2005 staff again coached a mock trial team made up of high school aged young men incarcerated in a local youth detention facility. Staff participates in community organizations such as the mentoring program at the Pio Pico Elementary School and the United Way charity. The Public Defender also interacts with faculty and students from local Universities and Law Schools.

Department Strategies:

- 1. Protect the constitutional rights, privileges and freedoms of individuals by providing the highest quality legal advocacy for all clients in the Criminal Courts of Orange County.***

Clients represented in the Criminal Courts of Orange County have been accused of criminal conduct which could subject them to incarceration. Some charges are felonies and some are misdemeanors. The Offices of the Public Defender are committed to advocacy on behalf of these clients. The department ensures, monitors, and maintains high quality representation for all clients in the criminal courts while maintaining a high level of efficiency. Training and technology resources remain integral components in enhancing the department's ability to deliver quality representation to our clients.

- 2. Advocate and protect the rights of individuals by ensuring that they are treated fairly and equitably in the Mental Health Courts of Orange County.***

The clients represented by the Mental Health Advocacy section of the Offices of the Public Defender are often those who are most vulnerable people in society. The Offices of the Public Defender represent about 4,000 people annually, predominantly the elderly and the infirm, for whom guardianship or involuntary hospitalization is being sought. These clients are mentally ill, developmentally disabled or otherwise profoundly

impaired, and their cases can arise in either a civil context (such as guardianship petitions) or a criminal context (sexually violent predator law, incompetence for trial or Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity).

3. *Provide high quality representation for clients in the Collaborative Courts of Orange County.*

There are several collaborative courts operating in Orange County. These include the Proposition 36 felony report-back court, the Co-occurring Disorders Court, the various adult drug courts, the Juvenile Drug Court, the Dependency Drug Court, the DUI Court, the domestic violence courts, the Truancy Court, and the Outreach Court. The Outreach Court is designed to deal with low level misdemeanor and traffic offenses for some of the most disadvantaged people living in Orange County, all of whom have been homeless and many of whom are veterans.

4. *Advocate the parental rights of clients by providing high quality legal representation in dependency cases.*

Clients represented by the Parental Rights unit of the Offices of the Public Defender are parents or other relatives of children who have come under the auspices of the Children and Family Services section of the Social Services Agency. These clients face court intervention in family crises involving their children.

Key Outcome Indicator:

The department has developed a Proficiency Index as a measurement tool to assist in analyzing overall department performance. The index measures standard criteria throughout the department and includes standards and guidelines established under the State Bar Guidelines, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association Recommendations, and the American Bar Association Guidelines. These standards and guidelines include maintaining manageable workloads and providing quality legal services. The Proficiency Index examines tasks performed such as case preparation, investigation, legal research, and looks at the attorney-client relationship, courtroom presentation, and case disposition. It is from the criteria and the guidelines that a departmental rating has been quantified. This is not the only tool for evaluating Public Defender services, however. Meaningful review of much of what is done in the department is very subjective, and less quantifiable. For example, while an experienced observer can readily recognize an effective and persuasive final argument, it is almost impossible to attach a meaningful number value to it. Measuring the result in the trial itself is of little value because the evidence presented determines the outcome to a greater degree than the quality of argument. The Proficiency Index is a product of quantifiable criteria for documentation of tasks performed. It is not a comprehensive determination of the overall quality of representation provided in the case.

The Proficiency Index measurement is compared to the baseline index developed in fiscal year 2003-04.

Performance Measure	Fiscal Year 2003-04 Results	Fiscal Year 2004-05 Plan Results	Fiscal Year 2005-06 Results (through November 1, 2005)	Fiscal Year 2006-07 Plan Anticipated Results	How are we doing?
What: Proficiency Index	Established baseline rating number of 96.49%	Results: rating number of 98.12%	Results: rating number of 98.43%	Continued high quality performance	On target
<i>Why: This internal measurement incorporating the State Bar Guidelines, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association Recommendations, and the American Bar Association Guidelines allows monitoring of the quality of services provided in all cases by the Public Defender. It measures documentation of tasks performed, but is not a comprehensive determination of the overall quality of the representation provided.</i>					

III. Operational Plan

Strategy 1: Protect the constitutional rights, privileges and freedoms of individuals by providing the highest quality legal advocacy for all clients in the Criminal Courts of Orange County.

Client Profile:

The Public Defender represents indigent individuals accused of criminal conduct where the punishment could lead to incarceration. If a person accused of a crime is financially unable to hire a lawyer, the law requires the appointment of counsel for that person. In acting upon the request for counsel, the court secures a financial declaration from the potential client and determines whether he or she is able to employ counsel. If not, the Public Defender is appointed.

Challenges:

The Public Defender strives to ensure the delivery of superior quality representation for all clients while maintaining a high level of efficiency. To achieve this goal, the department intends to monitor and maintain high quality and efficient representation in all courts served by the Public Defender. The department will focus on improvements in the work environment, staffing, training, and the use of technology.

Many important challenges involve issues over which the department has little or no control. The number of complex cases filed (capital cases, homicides, three-strikes) is determined by events occurring in the community, and by decisions made in other agencies. Developments in the law often increase the workload and duties of defense lawyers. These include the three-strikes law, legislation to increase punishment for criminal behavior, new laws regarding the admissibility of evidence, the Sexually Violent Predator law, and newly published cases in general. Added effort and ingenuity are needed to meet the demands arising from these factors.

The department continues to deal with the challenge of ever increasing caseloads. These increases occur for a variety of reasons including population growth, demographics, economic stability and unemployment rates, among others. The number of complex felony cases and "cold case" filings continue to rise. Staff was added in fiscal year 2005-06 to deal with increases from 2002 through 2005. The department will continue to monitor caseloads and request appropriate staff in future years as needed.

The Offices of the Public Defender are primarily funded from the County General Fund. In an effort to defray some of the expense of operating the department, efforts will continue to be made to reduce net county costs. California law permits the collection of fees from clients who have the ability to pay for Public Defender services. Many clients charged with felony offenses have no ability to pay for services. Most of the felony clients who do have the ability to pay and most clients in misdemeanor cases sign a waiver

agreement to pay a certain set fee for services, eliminating the need for time-consuming and costly hearings on the issue. The department continues to receive Trial Court Funding reimbursement from the state and the courts are committed to reimburse the Public Defender as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the courts and the County. The Public Defender continues to participate in the state mandate reimbursement program. The state has deferred some mandates for further consideration. The repayment of state mandated costs to counties and cities for expenditures prior to FY 2004-05 are scheduled to begin in FY 2006-07. The state has made payment on the FY 2004-05 estimated costs during the current fiscal year. These payments went directly into the County General Fund. The Public Defender participates in two partially funded Juvenile Drug Court Grants; one is funded through OC Probation and another through HCA. The department has identified grant opportunities in collaboration with other County agencies as well as independent grants.

The department continues to focus on staff development by providing in-house training and by encouraging staff attendance at other appropriate training such as that provided by the California Public Defenders Association (CPDA), California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (CACJ), Defense Investigators Association (DIA). Attorneys and support staff are encouraged to attend a variety of training sessions in the department either at lunchtime seminars or evening sessions. This training is provided by experts in the different areas of law at no cost to the employees. Attorney training is expansive and ranges from the basics for newer attorneys and support staff to the very complex areas of the law such as capital case work. Comprehensive training has also been provided for all clerical personnel as the department continued with the second phase of the program by familiarizing clerical staff with various courtroom procedures. New training development programs were created and implemented for the new classification of Investigative Assistant as well as for Investigator Trainees. A specialized training program was presented to Senior Investigators (supervising investigators) to assist them in enhancing their leadership capabilities. Another area of ongoing training and development was for department managers who availed themselves of a variety of training opportunities in communication and leadership.

Training for all staff continues in both legal areas and technology. The training program will continue to accommodate the training needs resulting from changes in the law. To meet these challenges the department will continue to provide training to staff members to increase the knowledge and skill level of assigned lawyers and support staff. Training will continue to be provided to develop the less experienced lawyers and support staff so they can effectively handle more complex cases in the near future. In evaluating staff performance, supervising attorneys and support staff supervisors will focus in part on identifying areas in which additional training would be useful, and then later analyzing staff performance to determine whether improvements have been made.

The department will continue to maintain appropriate technological hardware and software to enable all staff to efficiently and effectively advance the interests of the clients. Over the last few years the department has continued development of the department Case Management System. Development has included the required enhancements to the investigator and clerical modules. The justice system continues to move forward with plans for data exchange among the Justice system agencies. The

department case management development includes a requirement of interoperability with the other agencies in the Criminal Justice system.

Strategy 2: Advocate and protect the rights of individuals by ensuring that they are treated fairly and equitably in the Mental Health Courts of Orange County.

Client Profile:

The clients whose cases are handled by the Mental Health Advocacy section are some of the people most in need of legal representation. The lawyers working in that section represent about 4,000 Orange County residents annually, predominantly the elderly and the infirm, in circumstances where guardianship and/or conservatorship may be warranted. These are non-criminal cases where hospitalized mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or under-functioning persons in need of assistance appear before the courts. Many of the physical and/or mental disabilities that give rise to these clients' need for Public Defender services are with them throughout their lifetimes. Therefore, many of these cases involve clients whose cases can last a lifetime. Adequacy of placement and treatment are often as important as legal issues. This often requires lawyers advocating in the courtroom and staff who seek out treatment and placement options within the health care network and the courts.

A separate client group includes persons charged with crimes where the client has been found to be incompetent to stand trial due to a psychiatric condition, adjudicated as a mentally disordered offender, or found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Another client group includes those individuals subjected to proceedings seeking continued institutionalization under the Sexually Violent Predator law. They are individuals who have completed serving their sentences under criminal law but whom have been designated as needing further in-custody treatment by the Department of Corrections. Clients charged under the Sexually Violent Predator law face continuing two-year commitment petitions, potentially for the rest of their lives, and certainly during years of treatment. This presents a challenge to the Public Defender in that new cases are added annually but rarely subtracted.

Challenges:

Representation of people who are not always rational or communicative raises unique issues for advocacy. Medical and psychiatric issues inherent in these cases make use of experts illuminating and necessary. Some clients who wish a self-determinative voice lack the ability to communicate their desires or the rationality to cogently express that voice. Advocating the desires of these clients requires diligent lawyers with the patience, empathy and training to handle clients with challenging medical and psychiatric circumstances. Counsel is the advocate for the patient/client, and as such is mandated to articulate the client's desire and to be the client's voice in the courtroom.

Mental health representation involves many legal issues not seen in other sections of the department, and these areas require specified training for attorneys and investigators when they begin work in this section. It is also necessary to train attorneys in the unique area of advocacy where the client is at times incapable of expressing his or her wishes. Staff must be trained in effective client relations as many clients are profoundly disabled and/or mentally ill.

One aspect of representing clients in this section is advocating alternative placements to assure proper treatment in the least restrictive adequate setting for clients in the mental health system. This requires unique knowledge of the available placement sites and detailed knowledge of the various psychiatric medications and their effects. It is often necessary to secure the assistance of experts in advocating for proper placements.

On November 1, 2005, a pilot program started for the conduct of forced medication hearings, known as *Riese* hearings, on the premises of the psychiatric hospitals. These hearings, formerly done in court, are now being held in front of hearing officers within Royale TRC, the largest of the county's psychiatric facilities. The incorporation of all of the 17 county facilities into this program is expected to start in January or February 2006. This program, when fully instituted, will require the Public Defender to have an attorney assigned full-time to these facilities for the hearings.

Many mental health cases are specifically eligible for state mandated reimbursement for County costs of representation. Reimbursement has been delayed, however, with the state promising to make payments with interest in future years. The Public Defender maintains records and submits reports to ensure full cost recovery reimbursement from state mandated mental health reimbursement programs. Improvements in the method of tracking work on reimbursable cases have been implemented to ensure the recovery of the maximum allowable level of non-County funding for mental health defense.

Strategy 3: Provide high quality representation for clients in the Collaborative Courts of Orange County.

The Collaborative Court programs involve the coordinated efforts of various agencies and organizations. The programs operate through the cooperation of the Courts, District Attorney, Public Defender, County Counsel, Sheriff, Probation Department, Health Care Agency, Santa Ana City Attorney, Santa Ana Police Department, other law enforcement agencies, Mental Health Association, Housing and Community Services, Info Link, Public Law Center and a variety of homeless shelter programs, including Mercy House, Salvation Army, Orange County Rescue Mission, Catholic Worker, St. Vincent de Paul and others.

a) Proposition 36:

Client Profile:

Persons eligible to participate in Proposition 36 treatment are specified in Penal Code section 1210. They are primarily drug-addicted people who plead guilty or are found guilty of drug possession or of being under the influence of drugs. Treatment is not available for persons convicted of selling drugs or possessing drugs for purposes of sale.

Proposition 36 clients have varying levels of addiction and thus different treatment needs ranging from residential treatment to out-patient treatment. Relapse often occurs before successful recovery, and the level of treatment can change in response to those needs. Proposition 36 clients sometimes need counseling and assistance to improve other aspects of their lives such as housing, employment and education.

Some clients receiving treatment through Proposition 36 also suffer from mental illness. Treatment for the most impaired of these individuals is only effective if it is tailored to the unique circumstances of the co-occurring disorders court situation they are in. Many of these people obtain treatment in the specialized Proposition 36 co-occurring disorders program developed through the collaboration of the Judiciary, the Health Care Agency, Probation Department, Public Defender, District Attorney, and other agencies.

Challenges:

Several thousand people are being treated annually under Proposition 36, and the level of addiction is greater than anticipated. It is a challenge to secure appropriate treatment for each person in need given the funding constraints under which the system operates. The challenge of effectively treating Proposition 36 clients who also suffer from significant mental illness is being addressed in the specialized Co-occurring Disorders Court.

The first five years of Proposition 36 treatment and monitoring is state funded but that funding ends on June 30, 2006. The Offices of the Public Defender and the District Attorney's Office receive a portion of the Proposition 36 state funds with the remaining Public Defender costs arising from Proposition 36 being absorbed into the departmental budget. Although state funding is significantly less than the actual costs incurred by the department as a result of Proposition 36, most counties allocate no state funding for the District Attorney or Public Defender Proposition 36 work.

The issue of continued state funding for Proposition 36 treatment and services will not be resolved until sometime in early 2006 as the state legislature and governor work through the budget process. Nevertheless, with or without state funding, the law will continue to mandate treatment for persons who qualify under the statute. The county will incur significant costs after June 30, 2006, if state funding is not forthcoming.

b) Drug Courts:

Client Profile:

Persons eligible to participate in adult drug courts are those specified in the Orange County Superior Court Drug Court Standards Manual. These are clients who plead guilty to one or more specified crimes involving personal use or possession of drugs, acknowledge a substance abuse problem, agree to participate in intensive treatment for at least 18-months, and are found “suitable” for participation. Eligibility also requires, among other things, the absence of a prior record of serious or violent felony convictions, or any prior convictions for drug trafficking, sales, or possession for sale. The separate question of suitability is determined by the Drug Court Judge, with assistance from the Health Care Agency and Probation Department, and input from defense counsel and prosecutor, in accordance with the standards in the Drug Court Standards Manual. In recent years the adult drug court program added a fourth phase designed to ease the transition of graduates to life without drug court. Adding the new Phase IV lengthened the minimum time needed to complete drug court from 12-months to 18-months (except for drug courts operating at full capacity).

Drug Court participants need an intense level of treatment, with a high degree of supervision and accountability, and frequent drug testing. Relapse is part of recovery, and graduated sanctions are utilized to motivate clients to succeed. Clients need counseling and assistance to improve other aspects of their lives such as housing, employment and education.

Societal benefits and cost benefits arise as most clients who succeed in drug court do not return to the criminal justice system with new cases but instead lead productive lives as gainfully employed tax-paying citizens. Thus, although difficult to measure precisely, the “investment” in drug court pays dividends in the future.

Challenges:

Drug courts are highly collaborative programs. In addition to a committed drug court judge, each drug court requires active participation from the Public Defender, District Attorney, Probation Department, Health Care Agency, Court Administration, and law enforcement agencies operating in the jurisdiction. To make drug courts succeed, full commitment to the collaborative process by this department as well as the other departments is essential. This continuing commitment is the best strategy to ensure a comprehensive, thriving and effective drug court program. The Offices of the Public Defender will remain fully committed to the operation of effective drug courts as long as the need exists.

Drug courts operate in every jurisdiction in the County. In the past in some jurisdictions the programs were at capacity without room for additional eligible people, and it was a challenge to secure treatment for persons eligible for drug court in these impacted locations. One way the challenge was met was by streamlining the process for

transferring cases from the jurisdiction in which the case arose to the jurisdiction where the client lived, as long as the receiving drug court had a vacancy for that client.

After more than four years it appears Proposition 36 treatment works for some people but not others. Some clients who are unable to succeed in Proposition 36 treatment are offered the opportunity to participate in the more rigorous drug court, and the decline in the number of drug court participants was temporary. By the end of 2005 there were more drug court participants in Orange County than at any time since the passage of Proposition 36.

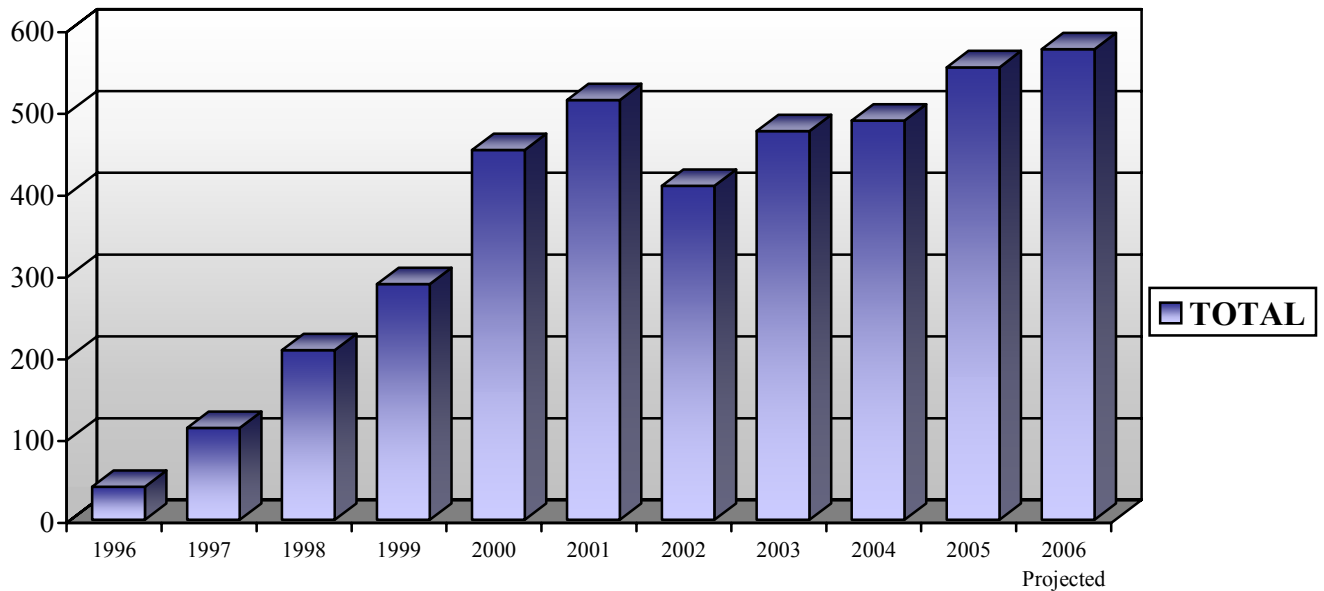
The drug diversion program is designed to educate people to the dangers of drug use. People who successfully complete the program have their cases dismissed, but many suffer from serious addiction and education alone is ineffective. For some people, recovery can only be accomplished by participation in the more rigorous drug court program. The challenge of convincing persons who have failed in less rigorous programs to seek sobriety through drug court can be met by effective and articulate explanation of the personal gains they can make by succeeding in drug court.

Representing clients in the drug courts requires allocation of staff to those assignments. The department currently has eight lawyers working part or all of their work hours in a drug court assignment. Other agencies receive funding from various grants, both state and federal. Because of restrictions in the terms of these grants this department, the District Attorney, and the judiciary share in only a small portion of those funds (in juvenile court and some reimbursement for costs incurred in sending a representative to drug court conferences).

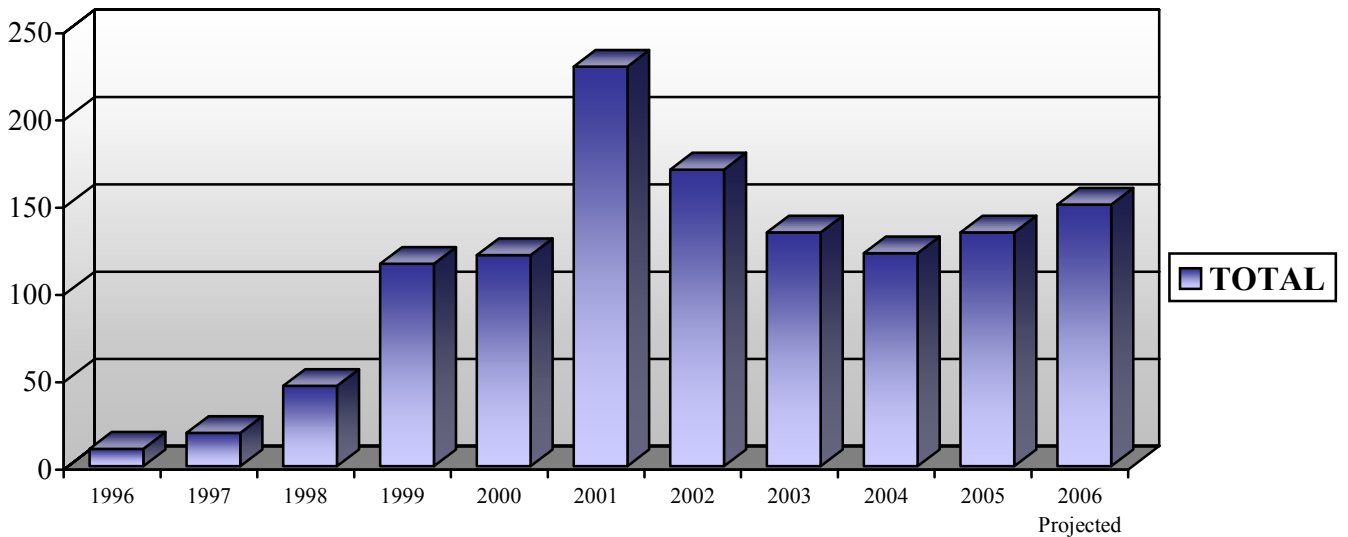
Program Statistics:

The Public Defender's Office is one agency among several whose work contributes to drug court operations. Each agency contributes to the success of drug courts, but overall success is the result of the combined efforts of all. Factors relevant to measuring how well the overall drug court goals are being met can be examined. These include determining how many people participate in each drug court during each year and how many people graduate from each drug court during each year. The numbers of participants and graduates dropped initially after Proposition 36 went into effect but soon began to trend upward again. Some drug courts were at or near maximum capacity beginning in 2004.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS AS OF JULY 1ST OF THE YEAR INDICATED:



TOTAL NUMBER OF DRUG COURT GRADUATES DURING THE YEAR INDICATED (2006 projected):



Proposition 36 treatment began on July 1, 2001 which accounts for the drop in the number of drug court participants and graduates in 2002.

c) DUI Court:

Client Profile:

In October 2004 the Orange County Superior Court began operation of a DUI Court targeting individuals arrested for a second or third offense of driving under the influence of alcohol. It is a pilot program and thus is limited to those individuals arrested in the Harbor Judicial District who are residents of Orange County. The mission of the DUI Court is to reduce recidivism, enhance community safety and foster a healthier and safer life for the participants and their families by increasing treatment, supervision and accountability of the high risk impaired driver. It currently focuses on treatment for persons charged with misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol who have one or two prior DUI convictions.

The DUI Court is modeled after the County's successful Drug Court Program and is a collaboration of several agencies including the Superior Court, Probation Department, Health Care Agency, the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department, as well as MADD and local law enforcement agencies. Program participants are given professional help in confronting substance abuse issues but the program also facilitates life-changing improvements in the participant's lives.

Challenges:

Although aspects of the DUI Court are funded by a grant, no grant money is applied to the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's office, or the courts. The additional public defender work arising from the establishment of this new specialty court has been absorbed into the general workload. Staffing needs could increase as caseloads rise and as the DUI court is extended beyond the initial pilot program at the Harbor Justice Center to other judicial districts.

The DUI Court is a highly collaborative program. It requires a committed DUI court judge as well as active participation on the part of the Public Defender, District Attorney, Probation Department, Health Care Agency, Court Administration and law enforcement agencies operating in the Harbor Judicial District. In an effort to make the DUI court successful this department has fully committed to the collaborative process. A similar commitment from the other involved departments and agencies has been provided. Continuing this level of collaboration is necessary to ensure a comprehensive, thriving and effective DUI court program.

d) Homeless Outreach Court:

Client Profile:

The Homeless Outreach Court held its first session in late October 2003. It has grown from that first client to an average of 80 cases heard monthly in three court sessions, two at the Orange County Rescue Mission and one at the Mental Health

Association. Clients with traffic infractions and low-grade misdemeanors (“victimless” misdemeanors) who are either charged or receiving services in the Santa Ana jurisdiction qualify for this program. They are referred by shelters, counselors, AB2034 (coordinated program involving partnership between police departments and HCA), courts and self referral. The goal is to reduce homelessness by eliminating barriers to services, such as outstanding warrants, and then linking individuals to the services that improve their lives and enhance the community. Services include mental health and medical referrals, educational opportunities, shelters and shelter programs. Clients are also required to “give back” through community service as an important component of the program.

Consistent with homeless statistics nation-wide, approximately 40% of the clients are veterans. A significant percentage suffer from a diagnosable mental illness, making contact with mental health services a critical component. In the last year, Outreach Court has worked with several expectant mothers, trying to ensure adequate services prior to the children’s birth. The project has witnessed a significant number of its participants successfully move out of status as homeless and into stable residence, while obtaining driver’s licenses, and employment.

Challenges:

Maintaining contact and locating meaningful resources and programs are significant challenges for staff working with this population, the burden falling largely on the Public Defender’s Office. This court is currently being staffed by the managing lawyer who worked in collaboration with the courts and other agencies to develop the program, but the addition of paralegal support should help provide the consistent availability to resource referral that this clientele so desperately needs. Because many of the clients suffer from mental illness, coupled with the stressors of surviving on the streets, they need significant contact to build the trust necessary to render the referrals to program services successful.

It is still anticipated that as the program strengthens its collaboration, the Court will expand to serve all County jurisdictions, greatly increasing the number of participants.

e) Domestic Violence Court:

Client Profile:

Specialty Courts addressing issues arising in Domestic Violence cases, both felony and misdemeanor, have been in operation in the Laguna Niguel branch of the Harbor Justice Center since 1998 and in the Central Justice Center (misdemeanor only) since 1999-2000. The clients appear before the court regularly to monitor progress on counseling as well as adherence to probationary terms. The court seeks to create a more stable and safe environment for the victims while addressing issues likely to decrease recidivism. A Domestic Violence Court has begun operation in the North Justice Center (misdemeanors only) and one is scheduled to begin in the West Justice Center (both felonies and misdemeanors) in February 2006.

Challenges:

These courts consume significant staff resources. Participation in the Domestic Violence Court compels frequent defendant contact with the court to address developing issues and changing circumstances. This results in a substantially greater number of court appearances per case, even on the “low exposure” cases that would typically be resolved with a minimal sentence in another court. Cases that would otherwise be closed with a plea are now kept active due to regularly scheduled progress reviews for extended periods (3-years on misdemeanors and 5-years on felonies). In the Laguna Niguel branch of the Harbor Justice Center the caseload grows substantially each year. The addition of the North and West Justice Center Domestic Violence Courts will consume a greater amount of staff resources.

According to the Court Administration the Domestic Violence Court currently operating at the Laguna Niguel facility of the Orange County Harbor Justice Center will relocate to the Newport Beach facility on February 6, 2006. This move will require more staff to be located in the relatively small confines of the Newport Beach branch office and may require securing additional office space.

f) Other Collaborative Court Projects

Dependency Drug Court: Dependency Drug Court began operation on April 1, 2005. Early data indicates a tremendous success in treating drug addiction and reunifying families with parents who have addressed their drug problem through the new dependency court.

Truancy Court: This program has been instituted in Juvenile Court to address children and their families when the child has school attendance issues. This program involves charging the child and/or the parent with a crime when a child is habitually truant. Many of these families have significant social problems that impact the ability of the children to attend school. The Truancy Court uses a collaborative approach between the District Attorney, Probation and the Public Defender to address family problems affecting school attendance for the child.

Community Court: The Community Court is being developed through the collaboration of the courts and various county agencies such as the Probation Department, Health Care Agency, Public Defender, District Attorney, Social Services, the Sheriff and other law enforcement agencies, Mental Health Association, City Attorney offices, and a variety of others. The goal is to make an effort not simply to punish offenders, but to try to solve community problems in order to reduce recidivism. It is meant to link the courts, clients and social services. It is expected that a variety of cases will be heard in the building in which the Community Court will operate, including the Central Court Drug Court, the new Proposition 63 Mental Health Court and a hoped for “frequent flyer” court. This “frequent flyer” court is designed to link low grade repeat offenders to critical services to assist police agencies looking for less intrusive alternatives to incarceration, functioning as a diversion program from the Criminal Justice System.

The Outreach court will also serve as one component of this project, through court referrals to the service providers located in the Community Court building. This groundbreaking Court project seeks to address neighborhood concerns of addiction, homelessness and mental illness by making all those resources necessary to resolve issues available at one location engineered to ensure access and ease of use.

Mental Health Court: The Orange County judiciary has identified a need to better respond to those mentally ill persons that enter the criminal justice system largely due to their mental illness issues. Sheriff Corona has indicated that an estimated 20% of his jail population is incarcerated in large part as a direct result of their mental illness. The passage of Proposition 63 has prompted a speedy assessment of judicial options. In the planning stages is a Mental Health Court for nonviolent offenders with a diagnosed mental illness with an initial caseload of 100 clients. It is anticipated that this Court will be fully operational in the early spring of 2006 once the designated Proposition 63 funds become available (funding projected to be available in April 2006). As with the Co-occurring Disorders population of the Proposition 36 Court, it is clear that this population will demand a significantly greater investment of staff time and energy to insure success, while promising hope for reduced recidivism as well as increased health and community safety.

Challenges:

As with all the collaborative courts, those listed above provide special challenges, many of which require special training and skills. Staff is required to have a more sophisticated understanding of addiction, recovery and mental health diagnostic issues as well as medication types and dosage. Additionally, they need to become conversant in issues addressing life skills in order to help direct clients towards overall stability while working to ensure reduced recidivism. This means that Public Defender staff must understand the basics of benefit resources (including eligibility issues), including access to housing, medical and mental health services, SSI and SSDI, as well as educational and job training resources that increase client long-term success. While each of these skills demand more of staff in time and effort, the impact on the community in reduced crime, reduced drain on court and tax resources and increased positive contributions to the community are immeasurable.

Strategy 4: Advocate the parental rights of clients by providing high quality legal representation in dependency cases.

Client Profile:

Clients in the Parental Rights Section (Dependency) are parents or occasionally other relatives who have had the Children and Family Services section of the Social Services Agency intervene in the family unit, and who face court action regarding placement of their children. The focus of the case is often a plan for family maintenance or reunification. Questions centered on a family in crisis are the predominant issues

faced by the clients, and emotions run high for the people involved in these cases – interested parties and the people working in the justice system.

Challenges:

When a family has problems that result in court scrutiny, the Public Defender is appointed to represent one of the parents in court proceedings. The Public Defender's role is to advocate the parent's desires when the court is deciding what is in the best interests of the children. This advocacy usually occurs at a time of a breakdown in the family relationship and must deal with the functioning ability of the family in a time of emotional upheaval. Public Defender representation usually involves attempts to preserve the family unit and to work toward the healing of the family. This often requires not only lawyers advocating in the courtroom but staff geared to assist the client in securing the counseling and program participation necessary to effectively address the problems and thereby facilitate family reunification.

Maintenance or reunification plans are often detailed and demanding. Significant client contact and intervention by department staff is needed between court appearances to assist clients in completing court-ordered case plans. This includes aiding clients with counseling, visitation, planning and interaction with social workers and county agencies. Staff resources for this important work are severely limited. As with the drug courts, advocacy in this area often involves assisting the client in working through the root problem that brought them before the court.

The Parental Rights Advocacy section operates in such a specialized area of the law that state guidelines have been instituted requiring certification of attorneys who practice in the Dependency Courts. This requirement guides the minimum training requirements for attorneys assigned to this section. Training also focuses on preparing staff to handle the emotional issues inherent in representing parents facing the potential loss of their children. Attorneys often employ experts, and specifically trained investigative staff, to help preserve the family unit and assist the client in completing court ordered case plans. Appellate advocacy is intense in this area and is required by case law such that appellate expert attorneys must be assigned specifically to this section.

The Trial Court Funding Act makes dependency cases specifically eligible for reimbursement for most County costs. The department will continue to ensure full cost recovery from State Trial Court Funding for the Dependency Program. The courts have been successful in obtaining funding for actual costs associated with Trial Court Funding. Due to the present fiscal concerns at the state level, the issue of increasing funding is uncertain for 2006-07. The department will remain within the guidelines of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the courts and various county agencies, including the Public Defender, and will continue to seek full cost reimbursement.

V. Appendix

Key Management Team:

Deborah Kwast, Public Defender	Marri Derby, Director Alternate Defender
Thomas Havlena, Chief Deputy Public Defender	William Kelley, Director Associate Defender
Brian Ducker, Sr. Assistant Public Defender	Becky Juliano, Administrative Manager
E. Robert Goss, Sr. Assistant Public Defender	Diana Hantsche, Human Resources Manager
Jean Wilkinson, Sr. Assistant Public Defender	Mario Songco, Financial Analyst

The Public Defender leads the Management Team and oversees the three independent Offices of the Public Defender, Alternate Defender, and Associate Defender. The Management Team is responsible for the daily operations of the eight Public Defender locations throughout the County, Alternate Defender, and Associate Defender. Management responsibilities also include, but are not limited to, preparation of the budget and strategic financial plan, human resource functions, real estate acquisition and maintenance, purchasing and safety. The main objective of all of the Management Team is to ensure high quality legal representation of our clients. Marri Derby was appointed Director of the Alternate Defender Office effective July 25, 2005, replacing Michael P. Giannini who had retired.

Labor Management Committee (LMC):

The Offices of the Public Defender's Labor Management Committee is comprised of the following members:

Aurora Brinshot	Marlene Marquez
Carla Calix	Charlene Marshall
Marri Derby	Judy Perry
Sandra Hanson	Jorge Romero
Diana Hantsche	Marilina Smith
Thomas Havlena, Sponsor	Patsy Vasquez
Becky Juliano, Team Leader	Yesenia Venegas
Norma Loza	Kristen Widmann

The LMC collaboratively worked with the County to continue to formulate and to implement suggestions for cost savings beginning in 2003.

Business Plan Team:

The Offices of the Public Defender's business plan team consists of Brian Ducker, E. Robert Goss, Diana Hantsche, Thomas Havlena, Becky Juliano, Deborah Kwast and Jean Wilkinson.

Accomplishments:

Among the significant accomplishments of the Offices of the Public Defender from July 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005, and anticipated accomplishments through June 30, 2007 are the following:

The Orange County Public Defender's Office was named the "2005 Community Partner of the Year" by the Public Law Center.

Senior Assistant Public Defender Jean Wilkinson received the first annual "Homeless Court Humanitarian of the Year" award in October 2005.

In September 2005 Assistant Public Defender Lee Blumen received the "Community Partnership" award from the Regional Center of Orange County for his work in providing legal assistance to residents of Fairview Developmental Center.

Deputy Alternate Defender Frank Ospino was named Public Defender of the Year by the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice organization.

The department's continued participation in the Proposition 36 and Drug Courts has assisted in helping an increased number of participants become productive, law abiding members of society.

Managers and staff attorneys participated on committees throughout the County which strengthens involvement in legal organizations and on County policy matters.

The department participated in the collaborative planning and design of the Dependency Drug Court for parents of dependent children to provide treatment programs for parents and assist in the reunification of families.

The Dependency Drug Court started in six different courts in the Lamoreaux Justice Center on April 1, 2005. The Public Defender has a dedicated attorney handling these clients and the first clients achieved graduation in December 2005.

The department participated in the development of the DUI Court pilot program which began operation in October 2004 in the Newport Beach facility of the Harbor Judicial District.

In November 2004 and again in November 2005 the department sponsored and tutored high school age teams of incarcerated youth in the Constitutional Rights Foundation Mock Trial competition, while others assisted in coaching high school Mock Trial teams.

Public Defender staff volunteered weekend time interviewing Veterans on videotape to preserve their service histories for the Library of Congress.

Over twenty Public Defender employees volunteered on a Saturday in July 2005 to provide legal services for homeless Veterans at the annual Veterans' Fair.

The LMC created and implemented a Public Defender Health and Wellness Program. October 2005 was the kickoff month and the LMC sponsored such activities as a walking group competition, Healthy Food Week, speakers promoting health and fitness, and yoga classes.

Marri Derby was appointed as the new Director of the Alternate Defender's Office (second segment office) effective July 25, 2005.

An investigator Procedures and Resources Training Manual was developed and disseminated.

Travel policies and procedures were revised and a Travel Policy and Procedures Manual created and distributed.

A managing attorney Procedures and Resources Training Manual was developed and disseminated.

Three senior attorneys were promoted to Assistant Public Defender (executive management) positions that were open due to retirements and the appointment of a new Director of the Alternate Public Defender. Newly developed training was provided for the new managers in addition to review sessions for the existing managers, which helped to create a cohesive team of managers working toward the same goals.

The Public Defender continues to work collaboratively with the Integrated Law and Justice Committee (ILJ) regarding data sharing within the criminal justice system agencies.

The department participated on the South Court Design Team to create the new South Court at the direction of the Board of Supervisors.

The clerical group met for a group training regarding many issues facing clerical in today's law office environment. The training included a component entitled "Court Watch" where staff was encouraged to watch attorneys in trial and representing clients in court. This hands-on training is helpful in understanding the overall goals of the office.

New Senior Investigators were appointed and training for all Senior Investigators took place to enhance their leadership and guidance skills.

The new classification of Investigative Assistant was approved by the CEO after the completion of a classification study. A new training program was created and provided to this new classification group.

Three managers participated in the Orange County Leadership Academy.

The department participated in the development of the Orange County Outreach Court, designated to assist the homeless population in Orange County, and its expansion to include regular sessions at both Orange County Rescue Mission and Mental Health Association.

The Information Technology (IT) section hosted a vendor fair. This vendor fair brought together 25 vendors who exhibited new products and technology to people from various County agencies and Public Defender staff.

Attorney and investigator staff was reallocated to handle the increased number of complex felony cases.

Department managers participated on a Children's Services Coordination Committee designed to improve services for children.

In an effort to be more responsive to the needs and concerns of staff, managers have continued to conduct regularly scheduled meetings to discuss and implement suggestions and changes.

The Public Defender intranet website is updated weekly with current information such as developments in the law.

The Public Defender intranet website posts staff accomplishments each month to recognize notable staff achievements.

A Mental Health “frequently asked questions” page was added to the Public Defender internet website.

The department has been an active participant in the Orange County Mental Health Coalition, promoting client issues among the County’s various mental health providers and consumer organizations.

The administrative team developed a new employee orientation manual that is distributed to all new staff members.

Numerous Public Defender staff participated in the County Mentoring Program by volunteering time to work with the children at Pio Pico Elementary School.

Additional informational databases for investigative staff were obtained enabling them to expand research capabilities and improve efficiency.

Additional digital cameras and CD burners were obtained to enable all investigative staff to more effectively conduct investigations, and reduce costs by enabling photos to be stored on CD’s and printed in-house. This resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of film purchased and the amount of traditional film processed.

Several staff attorneys volunteered evening hours to provide assistance for the homeless at the Fullerton and Santa Ana Armories during the winter months.

An IT committee was established composed of attorneys, investigators, clerical and IT staff. The Committee meets quarterly to discuss IT issues such as future training needs, legal research and other technical issues.

IT has successfully implemented a patch management strategy utilizing Microsoft’s patch management solution.

The department continued to use volunteer and course credit intern staff to assist with the staff workload.

Public Defender staff continued to participate in the multi-agency California Youth Authority review.

The Public Defender participated in the collaborative process of interviewing, certifying and training hearing officers for the new *Riese* facility hearings.

The *Riese* facility hearing pilot project began on November 1, 2005, and the Public Defender is representing all clients facing these hearings.

Department staff participated in the County Facilities Master Plan groups in planning for County space needs as well as specific department needs and considerations such as the build-out of Building 16.

NIMS IS 700 training and testing was completed by all department employees.

Updated Emergency Plan was completed by December 23, 2005.

Continuing education needs have been met for investigators by the department. Investigators have received tuition reimbursement to attend training opportunities.

The department staff collected 12 barrels of clothing to donate to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The United Way campaign was very successful due in part to the annual golf tournament, the silent auction night and the Public Defender sausage booth at the UW Kickoff event.

Employees donated clothing for clients involved in Homeless Court who needed interview clothing.

Another Health and Wellness speaker will visit employees to discuss Diabetes Awareness in late January 2006.

ICMS enhancements to the investigation module have been completed.

A prototype of the clerical module has been completed and is undergoing testing and implementation.

A pilot of a document imaging system has been completed.

A prototype of equipment inventory application is currently being tested.

A Public Defender Web Portal has been created and is currently being implemented by user groups.

A migration from Exchange 5.5 to Exchange 2003 has been completed.

A migration from Windows 2000 to Windows 2003 server platform has been completed.

Migration from Windows 2000 Professional to Windows XP desktop was completed.

Fax server application for Mental Health for processing and communicating at *Riese* Hearings was developed.

ANTICIPATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The department will transfer to the VTI time reporting and payroll process with exceptional reporting for salaried employees.

The Public Defender will continue to participate with the Integrated Law and Justice Committee as well as with the Court Subcommittee created to work out details of data sharing between County agencies and the courts.

Two more members of the Senior Management Team will participate in the Orange County Leadership Academy.

The *Riese* facility hearing project is expected to expand to all seventeen (17) facilities in 2006 and the Public Defender will represent all clients in these hearings.

Investigative and attorney staff will be trained on travel procedures in order to more efficiently conduct investigation on assigned cases.

Video Training on Demand will be implemented.

External web access to email server will permit staff to access their email from remote locations.

The Organizational Structure:

The Offices of the Public Defender consist of three distinct and separate law offices. These are the Public Defender Office, the Alternate Defender Office, and the Associate Defender Office.

The Public Defender Office – The main unit called the Public Defender Office and has several distinct sections. The main office is at 14 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, with branch offices in Fullerton (North Justice Center), Orange (Lamoreaux Justice Center),

Santa Ana (Central Justice Center), Westminster (West Justice Center), and Newport Beach and Laguna Niguel (Harbor Justice Center).

The Alternate Defender Office – The Alternate Defender unit is located in Santa Ana and handles the first level of conflict cases (except for cases arising in Juvenile Court). The Alternate Defender represents clients who, because of a conflict of interest, cannot be represented by the main unit, often because more than one defendant is charged.

The Associate Defender Office – The Associate Defender unit is located in Santa Ana and handles two or three complex cases (including capital cases) at one time. These are cases that, because of a conflict of interest, would previously have been handled by court-appointed private lawyers at greater cost than under the current system.

Facilities:

Public Defender facilities are located in the following county-owned or leased facilities:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Superior Court Office	14 Civic Center Plaza Santa Ana, California 92701	County-owned
Central Justice Center Office	600 W. Santa Ana Boulevard, Suite 111 Santa Ana, California 92701	Leased
Harbor Justice Center Office	4601 Jamboree Boulevard, Suite 101 Newport Beach, California 92660 (Newport Beach facility)	County-owned
	23560 Pacific Island Drive Laguna Niguel, California 92677 (Laguna Niguel facility)	County-owned
Lamoreaux Justice Center Office	341 City Drive South, Suite 307 Orange, California 92868	County-owned
North Justice Center Office	1440 N. Harbor Boulevard, 4 th Floor Fullerton, California 92835	Leased
West Justice Center Office	14120 Beach Boulevard, Suite 200 Westminster, California 92683	Leased
Mental Health Office	600 W. Santa Ana Boulevard, Suite 600 Santa Ana, California 92701	Leased
Alternate Defender Office	600 W. Santa Ana Boulevard, Suite 600 Santa Ana, California 92701	Leased
Associate Defender Office	12 Civic Center Plaza, Room B-15 Santa Ana, California 92701	County-owned

Cities Served:

Public Defender:

The **Central Justice Center** branch office serves clients whose cases arise in the cities of Santa Ana, Orange, Tustin and Villa Park.

The **North Justice Center** branch office serves clients whose cases arise in Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra, Placentia and Yorba Linda.

The **Harbor Justice Center** branch office at the Newport Beach facility serves clients whose cases arise in the cities of Aliso Viejo, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Woods (Leisure World), Lake Forest (El Toro) and Newport Beach. The Harbor Justice Center branch office at the Laguna Niguel facility serves clients whose cases arise in the cities of Dana Point, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Portola Hills, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano, as well as clients with domestic violence cases arising anywhere in the jurisdiction of the Harbor Justice Center.

The **West Justice Center** branch office serves clients whose cases arise Cypress, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, La Palma, Leisure World, Los Alamitos, Rossmoor, Seal Beach, Stanton, and Westminster.

The Mental Health section, Parental Rights section, and Juvenile Court branch serve clients whose cases arise anywhere in Orange County.

The Alternate Defender and Associate Defender offices serve clients whose cases arise anywhere in Orange County.

Offices of the Public Defender

2006-07

Organization Chart

